

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY RABAT

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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TAGS: PFOR EG FR UR XF CH LY

SUBJ: SADAT STATEMENTS IN PARIS

REF: CAIRO 4014

SUMMARY. LOCAL DAILIES FOCUS ATTENTION APRIL 5 ON SADAT STATEMENT
IN PARIS THAT SOVIETS MAY BE CONTEMPLATING ESTABLISHMENT OF
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NAVAL BASE IN LIBYA TO REPLACE ALEXANDRIA FACILITIES. SADAT STATES

EGYPT WILL RECALCULATE ITS TOLERANCE OF QADHAFI REGIME SHOULD SUCH BASE AGREEMENT BE CONCLUDED. SADAT ALSO APPEARED PESSIMISTIC ABOUT RECONVENING MEPC IN NEAR FUTURE, AND INDICATED THAT PRC HAS TAKEN "SIGNIFICANT STEP" FORWARD IN ITS RELATIONS WITH EGYPT. PRESIDENT ALSO COMMENTED THAT EGYPTIAN PRIVATE SECTOR EVENTUALLY TO AMOUNT TO 30-35 PERCENT OF EGYPTIAN ECONOMY, ALTHOUGH SOCIALISM WILL CONTINUE TO BE KEY TO EGYPTIAN ECONOMIC DECISIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. BANNER HEADLINES IN LOCAL DAILIES APRIL 5 DEVOTED TO SADAT COMMENTS TO FRENCH JOURNALISTS THAT SHOULD SOVIETS BE SERIOUSLY CONTEMPLATING ESTABLISHMENT OF MILITARY BASE IN LYBIA, EGYPT WOULD BE FORCED TO "RECALCULATE" ITS POLICY TOWARD QADHAFI REGIME. PAPERS PROMINENTLY REEMPHASIZED THAT EGYPT HAS CANCELLED ALEXANDRIA PORT FACILITIES PROVIDED TO SOVIET NAVY AND REPORTED SADAT SPECULATION THAT 11 BILLION-DOLLAR ARMS DEAL BETWEEN QADHAFI AND SOVIETS MAY BE PRELUDE TO SOVIET ESTABLISHMENT OF NAVAL BASES ALONG LIBYAN COAST. SADAT REPORTEDLY COMMENTED THAT SOPHISTICATED WEAPONRY INCLUDED FOR LIBYANS UNDER 1975 MILITARY AGREEMENT COULD NOT POSSIBLY BE USED BY LIBYAN MILITARY. EGYPTIANS KNOW THIS, SADAT STATED, BECAUSE THEY HAD BEEN RESPONSIBLE AFTER 1969 LIBYAN REVOLUTION FOR TRAINING LIBYAN ARMY. "I AM NOT AFRAID OF QADHAFI," STATES SADAT IN ARTICLES, BUT IF SOVIETS TO BE USING EQUIPMENT LOCATED IN LIBYA, EGYPTIAN TOLERANCE OF QADHAFI REGIME MAY HAVE TO CHANGE.

2. GENEVA: SADAT APPEARED PESSIMISTIC ABOUT RAPID RESUMPTION OF MEPC STATING: " GENEVA IS STILL MOST SUITABLE MEANS TO SIT DOWN AND REACH A SOLUTION. HOWEVER, THERE IS SOMETHING NEW WHICH I MUST TELL YOU, NAMELY THE NEW RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN JORDAN AND SYRIA. I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY PRECISELY WANT. SOMETIMES THEY SAY WE SHALL NEVER GO TO GENEVA AND SOMETIME THEY CHANGE THEIR MINDS. WE MUST FIRST KNOW TRUTH ABOUT THE SYRIAN"JORDANIAN PACT. I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY THE STAND OF THE RESISTANCE CONCERNING GENEVA. EGYPT IS READY TO GO TO GENEVA THIS YEAR. EGYPT IS READY TO REACH A COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT WHICH WE CAN REACH AFTER THE AMERICAN ELECTIONS". SADAT DID EXPRESS APPRECIATION, HOWEVER, THAT SOVIET UNION WILLING TO ACCEPT BRITAIN AND FRANCE IN EVENTUAL INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO GUARANTEE PEACE IN ME AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HE BELIEVED USG WOULD ALSO ADOPT SAME POSITION.

3. WEST BANK: SADAT STATED THAT IT WAS NATURAL THAT ARABS IN WEST BANK TERRITORY SHOULD REVOLT AGAINST ISRAELI OCCUPATION AND URGED THAT ISRAEL SHOULD START TO WITHDRAW FROM WEST BANK IN ORDER TO PAVE WAY FOR IMMEDIATE CREATION OF PALESTINIAN STATE, WHICH COULD ENTER ME PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

4. SADAT COMMENTS ON LEBANESE SITUATION AND SYRIAN ROLE REPORTED SEPTTEL.

5. CONCERNING PRC, SADAT QUOTED AS STATING THAT CHINA TOOK NEW INITIATIVE WITH FRIENDLY GESTURE TO SUPPLY EGYPT WITH SPARE PARTS FOR SOVIET-BUILT EGYPTIAN AIRCRAFT. (COMMENT: THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE COMMENTARY IN LOCAL PRESS DURING LAST FEW DAYS, COMPARING CURRENT EGYPTIAN SOVIET RELATIONS TO SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS IN LATE 1950S WHEN, EGYPTIANS CLAIM, SOVIETS ATTEMPTED TO PUT HEAVY ECONOMIC PRESSURE ON PEKING REGIME. EGYPTIAN WRITERS WARN DARKLY THAT TOTAL SOVIET FAILURE TO WIN OVER CHINESE THROUGH ECONOMIC BLACKMAIL WILL MEET SAME FATE IN EGYPT).

6. ON ARMS, PRESIDENT SAID NEW AGREEMENTS BUY MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM FRANCE WILL BE CONCLUDED "SOON".

7. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH MEMBERS OF EGYPTIAN COMMUNITY IN PARIS, PRESIDENT SADAT QUOTED AS STATING THAT GOE HAS NO INTENTION OF ROLLING BACK GAINS OF WORKERS AND FARMERS ATTAINED SINCE 1952 REVOLUTION. SADAT STRESSED INEVITABILITY OF SOCIALIST SOLUTION TO EGYPTIAN PROBLEM, ALTHOUGH HE CONCEDED THAT PRIVATE SECTOR WILL PLAY MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN COUNTRY'S ECONOMY IN ORDER TO RELIEVE ECONOMIC SUFFERING WHICH RESULT OF FOUR WARS, EVENTUALLY REACHING 30-35 PERCENT SHARE OF OVERALL ECONOMIC ACTIVITY.

8. COMMENTING ON RESULTS SO FAR OF CURRENT EUROPEAN SWING, SADAT STATED THAT EUROPE "PRESENTS US WITH VAST NEW FIELD FOR MANEUVERING TOWARD ME SETTLEMENT" AND THAT EUROPEANS HAVE SERIOUS ROLE IN ASSURING ME STATES THAT CURRENT PROGRESS DOES NOT STAGNATE INTO RETURN TO "NO WAR, NO PEACE" SITUATION. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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9. COMMENT: SADAT COMMENTS CONCERNING SOVIET ROLE IN LIBYA AND POSSIBLE NEW SOVIET MEDITERRANEAN BASES CONSTITUTE CONSIDERABLE ESCALATION OF BASE QUESTION. LOCAL PRESS DID ANNOUNCE VIA COVERAGE OF SADAT INTERVIEW WITH DPA PRIOR TO CURRENT EUROPEAN TRIP (REFTEL), THAT ALEXANDRIA FACILITIES BEING CLOSED TO SOVIETS, BUT STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS OF SOVIET INVOLVEMENT WITH QADHAFI PRESENT A NEW TWIST. ELEVEN-BILLION-DOLLAR FIGURE FOR SOVIET-LIBYAN 1975 ARMS DEAL DOWN SLIGHTLY FROM PREVIOUS STATEMENTS BY SADAT THAT DEAL AMOUNTED TO 12 BILLION DOLLARS, BUT WOULD STILL APPEAR TO BE WAY ABOVE ACTUAL DIMENSIONS OF 1975 AGREEMENTS. SADAT SUGGESTION THAT ANY GENEVA DISCUSSION IN NEAR FUTURE IMPROBABLE UNDER CURRENT CONDITIONS IS HIS MOST PESSIMISTIC TO DATE. SADAT APPARENTLY HAS NO IMMEDIATE ALTERNATIVE TO MEPC, HOWEVER, AND HIS COMMENTS

CONCERNING EUROPEAN PARTICIPATION IN AVOIDING NO-WAR NO-PEACE
SITUATION AND IN PEACE-KEEPING ROLE SEEMED DESIGNED TO NUDGE
PEACE PROCESS ALONG.
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